

Message Text

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21

ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 IO-14

ISO-00 SR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

DRC-01 /192 W

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R 240820Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6654

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1366

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

GENEVA FOR UNHCR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZILAND REFUGEES COMMITTEE MAKES REPRESENTATION
CONCERNING DETERIORATING RELATIONS BETWEEN
REFUGEES AND GOS

REF: MBABANE 1299 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY. FIVE MEMBERS REFUGEES COMMITTEE OF SWAZIALND
VISITED EMBASSY JULY 17. COMMITTEE STATED IT WISHED TO
ADVISE EMBASSY AND USG OF "DETERIORATING RELATIONS"
BETWEEN REFUGEES AND GOS. COMMITTEE WISHED FURTHER
TO APPEAL TO USG TO INTERCEDE WITH GOS FOR AMELIORATION
OF REFUGEE CONDITIONS IN GENERAL AND FOR ASSISTANCE FOR
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THREE URGENT CASES (2 SHANGES AND ZIKALALA) IN PARTICULAR.

END SUMMARY.

1. FIVE MEMBERS OF REFUGEES COMMITTEE OF SWAZILAND CAME TO EMBASSY JULY 17. THESE INCLUDED: JOSEPH MKHWANAZI, CHAIRMAN OF REFUGEES COMMITTEE AND PAC REFUGEE; DOUGLAS MANTSHONTOHO, PAC REFUGEE; STANLEY MABIZELA, ANC REFUGEE; EZEKIEL MYSSANE, FRELIMO REFUGEE; AND ALBERTO SOTO, FRELIMO REFUGEE. COMMITTEE SAID THEY WISHED ADVISE EMBASSY AND USG OF DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN REFUGEES AND GOS. COMMITTEE STATED THEY HAVE BEEN REBUFFED IN NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS OVER PAST YEAR TO MEET WITH DPM ZONKE KHUMALO TO DISCUSS SITUATION. IN MEANTIME, ACCORDING TO COMMITTEE, GOS HAS TAKEN ARBITRARY ACTIONS, SUCH AS DEPORTATION AND IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT TRIAL, WHICH ARE NOT IN ACCORD WITH CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH REFUGEES WERE ORIGINALLY ADMITTED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY OF CHARGE AS TO WHAT COMMITTEE WAS REQUESTING OF U.S., COMMITTEE RESPONDED THEY WISHED (A) TO ADVISE EMBASSY AND USG OF DETERIORATING STATE OF AFFAIRS, (B) TO REQUEST U.S. INTERCEDE WITH GOS FOR AMELIORATION REFUGEES CONDITION AND CESSATION ACTIONS SUCH AS IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT TRIAL AND DEPORTATION, AND (C) TO REQUEST U.S. ASSIST THREE CASES URGENTLY NEEDING RESETTLEMENT (SEE PARA 4).

3. COMMITTEE SAID THAT THEY HAD MADE SIMILAR REPRESENTATION TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION. INASMUCH AS MOST REFUGEES IN SWAZILAND HAD BEEN ADMITTED DURING TIME OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION, COMMITTEE BELIEVED HMG MIGHT FEEL MORAL OBLIGATION INTERCEDE WITH SWAZIS TO CONTINUE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH REFUGEES ORIGINALLY ADMITTED. RECEPTION AT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION WAS, ACCORDING TO REFUGEES, UNSYMPATHETIC.

4. COMMITTEE WAS ALSO DISTURBED BY LACK OF EFFECTIVENESS OF UNHCR IN GENERAL AND IN PARTICULAR WITH RESPECT EFFORTS RESETTLEMENT THREE URGENT CASES PRESENTLY IN QUESTION (2 SHANGES AND ZIKALALA, REFTEL). IN VIEW UNHCR INEFFECTIVENESS, COMMITTEE WAS APPEALING TO U.S. FOR DIRECT
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ASSISTANCE THESE THREE CASES.

5. CHARGE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD REPORT CONVERSATION. CHARGE TOLD COMMITTEE THAT HE BELIEVED ON PERSONAL BASIS THEY WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO MAKE REPRESENTATION TO RECENTLY APPOINTED UNHCR GOODYEAR WHO REPORTEDLY TO VISIT SWAZILAND EARLY NEXT WEEK. CHARGE SAID UNHCR HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY REFUGEE AFFAIRS WHEREAS U.S., STRICTLY

SPEAKING, HAD NO LEGAL STANDING IN CASE.

6. MEMCON POUCHED JULY 19.

7. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES UNILATERAL REPRESENTATION OF GENERAL NATURE SUCH AS REQUESTED BY REFUGEES UNLIKELY ACHIEVE DESIRED EFFECT AND COULD EASILY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. SWAZIS ARE GREATLY CONCERNED WITH EVENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND FEARFUL OF POSSIBILITY OF INFLUX OF REFUGEES AS RESULT SITUATION THERE. REFUGEE ISSUE AT THIS TIME VERY DELICATE AND INVOLVES MATTER WHICH SWAZIS PERCEIVE AS TOUCHING VERY SECURITY OF STATE. WE THEREFORE FEEL COMMITTEE QUESTIONS ON THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH APPROPRIATE UNHCR CHANNEL. UNHCR GOODYEAR IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR JULY 23 CONCURRED (SEE SEPTTEL). BOLEN

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